

After double flash floods in a week, villagers fear going home

By Nurul Huda Jamaluddin

Friday May 13, 2016
07:35 AM GMT+8

SEPANG, May 13 — Kampung Revolusi Hijau residents have been hit by two flash floods in five days, leaving some of them reluctant to leave the evacuation centre in case another strikes.

More than 10 families from the village were still at the centre located in the Taman Gemilang public hall as the water has not receded in some areas.

The flash floods occurred on Saturday and again on Wednesday, a day after they returned from the evacuation centre.

The residents said they were the worst flash floods in years, although less severe flooding took place last November.

Martini Agus, 55, said the muddy and murky waters, which rose rapidly, caused damage to property.

Martini, a cleaner, estimated her loss at RM8,000.

This was despite spending RM20,000 to renovate their house in the hope of keeping flood waters away.

“My husband and I do not earn much and used part of our savings to renovate the house to minimise damage during floods,” said the mother of three, whose husband works as a lorry driver.

“But this time, the house was in almost 2m of water on Saturday. Most of our belongings are gone.”

Martini was among those staying back at the centre, which initially housed 132 victims from 35 families.

The evacuees were from flood-affected areas in Sepang, including Kampung Chemperai, Revolusi Hijau, Kampung Semarang, Ampar Tenang, Taman Baiduri, Kampung Lalang and Sri Tanjung Gemilang.

Martini’s sister, Shah Fitri, 50, was also among those affected by the floods.

“We returned home on Monday and cleaned our house but we were forced to leave again on Wednesday,” said the single mother of two, who injured her ankle while trying to salvage her belongings.

“Two floods in five days ... I do not know how many times we have to experience this.”

For Hamidah Hamid, 55, the floods were terrifying as she and her family, including her aged parents who are in their 80s, had to wait eight hours before being rescued by Department of Civil Defence personnel on Saturday.

She said paramedics had to treat her 82-year-old father for breathing difficulties, and her mother, aged 83, for abdominal pain.

“I made a few calls from 3am but they only came eight hours later. I feared something bad was going to happen as my parents have health problems,” she said.

Fitri Yani, 30, said her two children had to attend school without proper clothing and study material.

“My nine-year-old daughter had to wear her old clothes as her uniforms were soaked in the muddy waters,” she said.

Homemaker Siti Nur Khatijah Hasih, 26, hoped the authorities would consider providing more aid to the flood victims.

She said she received about RM1,000 from the federal and state governments and the zakat centre.

She said the residents needed financial assistance to repair their houses.

In Kuala Lumpur, several major roads were flooded after a downpour yesterday.

Among the roads affected were Jalan Pantai Baru, Jalan Semantan and Jalan Pudu.

The floods during peak hours caused a standstill in several parts of the city.

According to Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, La Nina is expected to start next month.

- See more at: <http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/after-double-flash-floods-in-a-week-villagers-fear-going-home#sthash.IbgzCv6r.dpuf>